Continuation of 3. Note: Regarding claims 1, 21, and 42, the modifications (as seen below) to the

claims comprising *a subset of the set of time slots*, require the Examiner to perform an updated

search. In addition, new claim 47 is added without canceling a number of finally rejected claims.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for allocating time slots to channels in a time
division multiplexed network in which a bitstream divided into frames is propagating,
wherein a recurrent frame thereof is divided into time slots, and in which circuit-switched
channels are allocated respective sets of time slots in said recurrent frame of said network,
said method comprising the steps of:
        allocating a set of time slots to a circuit-switched first channel;
        associating the allocated set of time slots to said first channel with a first level of
priority;
        receiving a request for time slots for a circuit-switched second channel associated with
a second level of priority;
        comparing said first and second levels of priority, and
        determining whether or not to deallocate a subset of said set of time slots from said
first channel, and allocate the deallocated subset of time slots to said second channel, based
upon said comparison.